WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A printing system for use in printing image objects of any of a plurality of different object types, said system comprising:

a printer; and

a printer control device with a user interface having a first option for associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with a selected object type to be printed by said printer.

2.   The printing system of claim 1, wherein said user interface includes a dialog screen having a control for invoking said first option for associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with a selected object type to be printed by said printer.

3.   The printing system of claim 1, wherein said user interface further includes a second option for associating object descriptors with a selected object type and wherein, responsive to selection of an object descriptor, said second option associates printer-independent print-quality characteristics with said selected object descriptor.

4.   The printing system of claim 3, wherein said user interface includes a dialog screen having a first control for invoking an option of automatically associating said object descriptors with said printer-independent print-quality characteristics in accordance with a set of predetermined associations and a second control for manually associating said object descriptors with said printer-independent print-quality characteristics.

5.   The printing system of claim 3, further comprising a third option for defining a custom object descriptor.

6.   The printing system of claim 4, further comprising a third option for saving a set of associations.

7.   The printing system of claim 6, further comprising a fourth option for selecting a default configuration of associations.

8.   A method for controlling the quality of printing of a composite document having different types of objects, comprising:

providing a list of object types;

providing a list of printer-independent print-quality characteristics;

selecting an object type from the list of object types; and

associating at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristic with the selected object type to be printed by said printer.

9.   The method of claim 8, further comprising:

providing a list of object descriptors;

selecting an object descriptor; and

associating at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristics with said selected object descriptor.

10.   The method of claim 8, further comprising:

defining a custom object descriptor;

adding the custom object descriptor to the list of object descriptors; and

associating at least one printer-independent print-quality characteristics with said custom object descriptor.

11.   The method of claim 8, further comprising saving a set of associations.

12.   The method of claim 11, further comprising loading said saved set of associations.

13.   The method of claim 8, further comprising providing a default configuration of associations.